

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OPR-01 NIC-01 /075 W

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R 241030Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4625

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 2406

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE, YS, SA, LY

SUBJECT: FURTHER ON STUDENT DISTURBANCES IN TAIZ

1. SUMMARY: CONTINUING REPERCUSSIONS. INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE FORMED. LEFTISTS SEEM TO BE SHIFTING ATTENTION FROM RURAL TO URBAN ELEMENTS. YARG DISTURBED ABOUT SAG REACTION IF IT DOES NOT REACT AGAINST LEFTISTS. RUMORS THAT IT MAY CLOSE FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTERS. WE WOULD ARGUE THAT OUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE FACILITY NOT SUBJECT TO SUCH ACTION.

2. TAIZ STUDENT DISTURBANCES OF NOV 18 BETWEEN LEFTISTS AND MUSLIM BRETHREN ARE CONTINUING TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE INTERNAL REPERCUSSIONS. SPECIAL COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MININT LTC YAHYA AL-MUTAWAKKIL (CHAIRMAN), MINED AHMAD JABIR AFIF, AND PROMINENT SHAIKH AHMAD ALI AL-MATARI HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT HAMDY TO INVESTIGATE. MUTAWAKKIL
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STATE-

MENT PUBLISHED NOV 24 BLAMED TROUBLES ON OUTSIDE

ELEMENTS AND DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CLASHES WITH POLICE (UNTRUE), ASSERTING THAT STUDENTS HAD DISPOSED PEACEFULLY ONCE RINGLEADERS DETAINED.

3. ACCORDING TO TAIZ DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SECURITY WHO HAS BRIEFED TAIZ EMBOFF, MUTAWAKKIL COMMISSION WILL PLACE BLAME FOR SITUATION ON NAIVITE TAIZ GOVERNOR UTHMAN AND ON DIRECTOR OF SECURITY MUHAMMAD AL-MATARI WHO APPARENTLY ENCOURAGED "NASIRIS E". FINDING MAY POSSIBLY SPEED REMOVAL OF BOTH FROM TAIZ, ALTHOUGH UTHMAN NOT ACCUSED OF FOMENTING TROUBLE. SITUATION MAY BE DEBATED ON NOV 24 IN CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY AS TRIBAL LEADERS ARE UP IN ARMS OVER LEFTIST INFLUENCE.

4. WE HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS IN LAST TWO TO THREE MONTHS THAT PDRY-SUPPORTED SUBVERSIVES HAVE CHANGED TACTICS IN YAR. PREVIOUSLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PDRY NATIONAL FRONT'S OWN EXPERIENCE AGAINST BRITISH, THEY HAVE CONCENTRATED ON RURAL AREAS, USING TERRORISM AND IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSION. PERHAPS IN VIEW DIFFICULTY MAINTAINING ANONYMITY IN VILLAGES AND SMALL TOWNS AND IN VIEW VIGOROUS ANTI-TERRORISM CAMPAIGN TO YARG, SUBVERSIVES ARE NOW CONCENTRATING ON URBAN ELEMENTS, ESPECIALLY STUDENTS AND JUNIOR ARMY OFFICERS AND BUREAUCRATS, IN THREE MAJOR CITIES (SANAA, TAIZ AND HODEIDA). TAIZ DISTURBANCES AND SMALL PEACEFUL STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN HODEIDA NOVEMBER 22 MAY BE SOME OF FIRST RESULTS THIS NEW ORIENTATION.

5. YAR SECURITY OFFICIALS IN TAIZ SAY THEY HAD NOTED HIGH DEGREE OF ACTIVITY BY ARAB NATIONALIST MOVEMENT AND PRO-PDRY ELEMENTS AMONG TAIZ STUDENTS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR CLASHES, AFTER MORE THAN YEAR OF INACTIVITY. PDRY, FOR REASONS OF DESIRING TO SHOW APPARENTLY MODERATION, APPEARS, IN SECURITY OFFICIALS' VIEW, TO HAVE CHANGED FROM SABOTAGE TO EMPHASIZING POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN FORM UNITED FRONT OF "PROGRESSIVES".

6. YARG PARTICULARLY DISTURBED ABOUT SAG REACTION SINCE LATTER HAS BEEN MAIN SUPPORTER OF MUSLIM BRETHERN IN FACE PDRY, LIBYAN AND IRAQI SUPPORT FOR LEFTIST SUBVERSIVES. YARG
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ANTICIPATES SAG DISPLEASURE IF IT DOES NOT MOVE AGAINST LEFTIST ELEMENTS, PARTICULARLY SINCE LEFTIST STUDENTS, IN ADDITION ATTACKING BRETHERN, ALSO STAGES DEMONSTRATIONS AFTER CLASHES IN WHICH THEY BURNED KORAN AND BROKE WINDOWS IN SEVERAL SAG-FINANCED SCHOOLS.

7. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD STRONG RUMORS THAT YARG CONSIDERING BANNING EMBASSY-SPONSORED CULTURAL CENTERS, SINCE LIBYAN, IRAQI, SYRIAN, AND RUSSIAN CENTERS ARE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING LEFTISTS. DECREE ANTICIPATED NOV 24, HOWEVER, HAS NOT

APPEARED. THIS MIGHT CAUSE US PROBLEMS WITH USIS-RUN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER. I WOULD, HOWEVER, TAKE APPROACH THAT YEMEN-AMERICA LANGUAGE INSTITUTE WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO BAN SINCE IT HAS MINED AFFILIATION AND EXISTS PRIMARILY TO PROVIDE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING OF YARG-SPONSORED STUDENTS BEING PREPARED FOR FOREIGN STUDY UNDER YARG-APPROVED PROGRAMS. SAG WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE SAME VIEW FOR ITS ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER. THIS IS GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT YARG, IN ANY CASE, WOULD SHRINK FROM SUCH DRASTIC STEP AS A CLOSING CENTERS AND WOULD SETTLE FOR TIGHTER SURVEILLANCE (MILITARY OFFICERS ARE ALREADY FORBIDDEN FROM ENTERING FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTERS).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, EXTREMISTS, CULTURAL CENTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANAA02406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740341-0802
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741116/aaaaanoz.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER ON STUDENT DISTURBANCES IN TAIZ
TAGS: PINT, YE, YS, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005